

Fall 2024 Generator Workshop Biographies

***Please remove yellow highlight to indicate your biography has been reviewed and updated. ***

Brent Burch is the Compliance Branch Head with the Hazardous Waste Section. He has been with the Division of Waste Management for 31 years; 27 of which have been with the Hazardous Waste Section. Brent received his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from NC State University. Brent resides in Andrews where he coaches' high school football and girls' basketball and helps with his church youth program.

Richard Concepción is the Eastern Region Compliance Supervisor with the Hazardous Waste Section. He has been with the Section for 8 years. He has over 40 years' experience in the environmental management field, for both private and government entities. He taught as a part-time professor of Mortuary Science for 15 years. Richard has a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, a master's degree in environmental science with a Major in Risk Assessment and he also did post-graduate coursework in environmental science. Richard has been nominated for the **2024 Governor's Awards for Excellence**, the highest honor a state employee may receive for dedicated service to the State of North Carolina and its residents, for his work on Environmental Justice related to the Spanish-speaking community. He is also a Registered Environmental Manager and a member of the American Chemical Society. His hobbies include cooking, kayaking, boating, and playing string instruments.

Dan Girdner is an Environmental Specialist II with the Hazardous Waste Section, covering Guilford County. Dan had 20 years of experience in geotechnical, groundwater monitoring, and landfill gas-to-energy consulting projects where he got to do science things outside in nice places from the coast to the mountains before joining the Hazardous Waste Section in 2019. The upside of not traveling as much has been more time to cook and hang out with the family. (He has been known to work the fact that he has a kid at NC State now into conversations.)

Rose Pruitt is the Eastern Regional Hydrogeologist and formerly an inspector with the Hazardous Waste Section covering 10 counties in the central Piedmont part of NC. She graduated from Wake Forest University and has more than 20 years of experience as an inspector with the NCDEQ. Previously, Rose was an inspector with the Water Resources and the Underground Storage Tank Program. Rose joined the Hazardous Waste Section in 2017.

Ryan Mayette is an inspector with the Hazardous Waste Section. He has 15 years of environmental compliance and due diligence experience and has been with the Section for 1 year. He is located in Gaston County and covers 5 counties from the SC State Line to Hickory along the Highway 321 corridor. Ryan has degrees in Environmental Studies and Economics from UNC Asheville and enjoys most outdoor pursuits including mountain biking and fly fishing.

Aram Kim is an inspector with the Hazardous Waste Section, covering ten counties in the northeastern region. She was with the Superfund Section prior to joining the Hazardous Waste Section in 2020, after spending six years inspecting dry cleaners in North Carolina. Aram has a bachelor's degree in environmental science from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Originally from South Korea, she has lived in various parts of the world, including Europe, Central America, and Asia. In her free time, Aram enjoys practicing yoga and Zumba dance.

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Andrew Martin is an inspector with the Hazardous Waste Section. He has over 13 years of environmental compliance experience and has been with the Section for since 2014. His area includes Mecklenburg and Iredell Counties. Andrew has a Bachelor of Science from Lynchburg College and enjoys boating and mountain biking.

Andrea Stermer is an inspector with the Hazardous Waste Section, covering 27 counties in the northeastern region of the State. Andrea has been with the Hazardous Waste Section for 5 years and comes to the Section with over 20 years of hazardous waste experience in local government. Andrea has a Bachelor of Science in Limnology from the University of Central Florida. She enjoys making handmade cards and traveling.

Nick Guglielmi is the Western Regional Hydrogeologist and formerly an inspector with the Hazardous Waste Section. He has 11 years of environmental compliance experience and has been with the Section for 7 years. He is located in the Asheville area and previously covered the 17 westernmost counties in the state. Nick has a degree in Environmental Technology from NC State and enjoys cycling and hiking.

DEACS Staff

October 31st – **Renee Kramer** graduated from the University of Delaware in 2013 with a degree in Wildlife Conservation & Agriculture and Natural Resources. Upon graduation, she worked for a private consultant with wind energy conducting wildlife impact surveys. In 2015, Renee continued her studies at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment for Ecosystem Science and Conservation, receiving her Master of Environmental Management and a certificate in Community-Based Environmental Management. She has been with the Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) for just over six years, previously serving as the Title VI and Environmental Justice (EJ) Coordinator. She is now part of the DEACS team as the ESI Manager.